

## **SECTION II. METHODS:**

### **Data Sources, Definitions, and Document Information**

#### **DATA SOURCES**

The sources of the birth and death data used in this needs assessment were the 1997 through 2001 end of year data files received from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) with one exception: the 2001 infant death data are preliminary data.

Death certificates for infants were linked with their corresponding birth certificates in order to obtain additional information about the infant, the delivery, the pregnancy, and the mother, that was not available in the death documents. ADHS linked the 1997 and 1998 infant deaths to their birth data, while the 1999 through 2001 data were linked by MCDPH. The percent of infant death certificates linked to infant birth certificates was 94.2% for 1997, 96.9% for 1998, 95.9% for 1999, 98.0% for 2000, and 95.3% for 2001. See Table 1 in Volume II for more details on linked and unlinked data.

Statewide Arizona indicators can be obtained from the “Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics Report, 2000”<sup>4</sup> published by the Arizona Department of Health Services. United States indicators can be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Reports<sup>5</sup>.

The sources of Maricopa County, the state of Arizona, and the United States population data were the United States Census

Bureau<sup>6-8</sup>, the Arizona Department of Economic Security<sup>9-12</sup>, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis<sup>13-14</sup>.

#### **RACE AND ETHNICITY**

The U.S. Census records race and ethnicity separately, so that Hispanics can be of any race and non-Hispanics can be of any race. Race and ethnicity are presented in this needs assessment together, collapsed into a single indicator, including White non-Hispanic (NH), Hispanic/Latino (of all races), Black/African American NH, Native American NH, and Asian NH. In Maricopa County, this classification is consistent with the area’s cultural groupings. “Hispanic” refers to persons who trace their origin or descent to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central America, South America, or other Spanish cultures and can be of any race. Persons are classified by race and ethnicity according to how they identify themselves to census takers or hospitals, or how their relatives identify them to the funeral director upon their death.

In the 2000 Census, persons could identify themselves as belonging to more than one race group. All stated races were recorded. However, Arizona birth and death certificates only record one race. To compute rates, census classifications of two or more races were included in the category of other race.

Some graphs, such as those for race/ethnicity, show “Other/Unknown” categories, while some graphs do not. Therefore, the percentages may not add to 100% in some cases.

## **DEFINITIONS**

The birth rate in this publication is defined as the number of births per 1,000 women of childbearing age (15-44 years old). Birth rates within categories of people (e.g., a race/ethnicity) are the number of births within that group per 1,000 women of childbearing age (15-44 years old) within that group.

child health programs and services should be directed to the Public Health Office, 602-506-4926.

Maternal age is the mother's age at the time she delivered. The low birth weight rate is the percentage of all babies who are born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). The percentage of babies born weighing less than 1,500 grams (3.3 pounds) at the time of delivery is the very low birth weight rate. The preterm birth rate is the percentage of all babies born before they reach 37 weeks of pregnancy (gestational age).

## **STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Some comparisons between groups or years were examined for statistical significance, and if appropriate, this was mentioned. Most comparisons, however, were not examined in this way.

## **DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

All data pertaining to the charts and graphs in this document are included in the second volume, the Maricopa County Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment 2002: Supplemental Data Tables. Both volumes are located on the Maricopa County Department of Public Health web site, "[http://www.maricopa.gov/public\\_health/epi](http://www.maricopa.gov/public_health/epi)." At the end of this document, there is a data request form to obtain additional information from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. Questions pertaining to the data in this Needs Assessment should be directed to the Division of Epidemiology/BDPR, 602-506-6825. Questions pertaining to Maricopa County Department of Public Health's maternal and

**Abbreviations Defined**

ADHS.....	Arizona Department of Health Services
AHCCCS.....	Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (Medicaid)
AZ.....	Arizona
BDPR.....	Bio-Defense Preparedness and Response
BEA.....	Bureau of Economic Analysis
CDC.....	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DES.....	Arizona Department of Economic Security
HP 2000.....	Healthy People 2000
HP 2010.....	Healthy People 2010
IHS.....	Indian Health Service
IMR.....	Infant Mortality Rate
LBW.....	Low Birth Weight
MC.....	Maricopa County
MCDPH.....	Maricopa County Department of Public Health
MCH.....	Maternal and Child Health
NCHS.....	National Center for Health Statistics
NH.....	Non-Hispanic
NMR.....	Neonatal Mortality Rate
NVSR.....	National Vital Statistics Report
PNC.....	Prenatal Care
PNMR.....	Post-Neonatal Mortality Rate
U.S.....	United States
VLBW.....	Very Low Birth Weight